

Neighborhood News Alerts Archive - 2005

Annual Commencement Fireworks Display

(Posted May 2005)

Rice University's 92nd Commencement exercises will take place on Friday May 13 and Saturday May 14. As in years past, a brief celebratory fireworks display will take place Friday night at 10:00 PM.

Planned Research Center

(Posted January 2005)

As first reported to Southgate neighbors in 2003 ([Update on Rice's University & Main St. Property](#)),

Update on Rice's University & Main St. Property

(Posted October 2003)

As reported in a neighborhood advisory posted in [February](#), a recent update of the university's architectural master plan for future decades gave particular attention to the prospects for expanding research collaboration between Rice and the Texas Medical Center(TMC). This will be of particular interest to our Southgate neighbors since the site of the former Tidelands Motel at the corner of Main and University is a natural location for a facility to promote joint research by Rice and TMC institutions. Exploratory discussions about various uses of the property that would include a research center have not yet resulted in any agreement or plans on which to move forward, so there is no other information to report at this time. Should matters progress, Rice will be in touch with its neighbors on additional details.

Please direct any comments or questions to the [Office of Community and Government Relations](#).

and more recently profiled in the *Houston Business Journal*,

Business Journal Hails Rice/TMC Research Center;

Project Manager Named

(Posted November 2004)

As related in neighborhood advisories from February and October of 2003, the latest draft of Rice's master plan calls for a reorientation of future construction toward a new campus axis by which the university would more directly engage research institutions in the Texas Medical Center. As discussed with Southgate and other area civic club leaders at quarterly meetings since that time, anchoring this axis, Rice's provost Eugene Levy has proposed a collaborative research center on the former Tideland Motel site on Main Street at University Boulevard.

While there still exists no agreement between potential research partners, and hence no construction plans, with the recent hiring of Diana Randall to serve as program director for the envisioned Collaborative Research Center, commitment to the project has become more concrete. In its November 8 editorial "[Unified Research is Long Overdue](#)," the *Houston Business Journal* enthusiastically endorsed the concept of a Rice/Texas Medical Center collaborative research center and offered additional details in a feature story "[Research Hub Unites Rice, TMC](#)". (Please note: the article states that "Rice has already hired a local architect and has selected a consulting construction company for the design phase," which is inaccurate. Rice has hired firms to undertake feasibility and pre-design studies, but there are no contracts for design phase work at this time.)

As in the past, Rice will continue to be in touch with its neighbors on additional details as plans progress. Please direct any comments or questions to the [Office of Community and Government Relations](#).

Rice University is in discussions with several Texas Medical Center research and education institutions aimed at establishing a collaborative academic research center on the vacant lot at the corner of University Boulevard and Main Street. Before exploring possible building designs, Rice is eager to engage in a dialogue with our Southgate neighbors at an information session to be held on Thursday, February 17 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM in room 115 of Rice's Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management. To participate, please:

- Enter the campus at Entrance 8 (University Boulevard at Stockton)
- Follow the entry road as it curves to the right
- At the first stop sign, proceed straight ahead (on College Way)
- At the second stop sign, turn left (Alumni Drive)
- At the next stop sign, turn left; Jones School building is now on the left
- At the far end of the building, turn left into the underground parking area
- Press button at entry gate and take ticket
- Take elevators to first floor and follow signs to room 115
- Obtain a validation card at the check-in table for free parking

Campus maps showing building and street names may be downloaded at <http://www.rice.edu/maps>.

We hope that interested neighbors will be able to participate.

Rice University welcomes your questions and thoughts.
